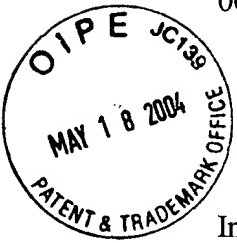


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PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
: Examiner: T. Lee
HIROSHI TANIOKA, et al.)
: Group Art Unit: 2624
Application No.: 09/576,928)
:
Filed: May, 23, 2000)
:
For: IMAGE PROCESSING)
: May 17, 2004
APPARATUS AND METHOD :

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

LETTER SUBMITTING REFERENCES
TO BE PLACED IN APPLICATION FILE

Sir:

Applicants are submitting herewith copies of the following references and it is respectfully requested that they be placed in the application file.

Japan 10-108009
Japan 10-191042

The foregoing references turned-up during a prior art search conducted in connection with an Explanation Concerning Accelerated Examination for Japanese Application No. 2000-111159, from which the present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119. In more detail, Applicants submitted the foregoing Explanation to the Japanese Patent Office on April 16, 2004, a copy of which is enclosed, and cited the above-listed Japanese documents. It is noted that the above-listed Japanese documents

correspond, respectively, to Japanese Applications 8-254917 and 8-344307. These Japanese applications are priority documents for U.S. Patent No. 6,011,878, which has been made formally of record in the present application. Accordingly, it is believed that the above-listed Japanese documents are merely cumulative to the art already of record in the application and therefore, they are not being cited in an Information Disclosure Statement. Nonetheless, Applicants merely request that the references be placed in the application file, together with this letter.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants

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